11/20/70

Dear Ed,

I've not yet seen Garrison's book or any review of it. I presume my having given him several hundred copies of mine is more than sufficient justification, the way his mind works, for him not to send me a copy.

What you describe is the explanation I gave him the night of 4/30/67 when, in his den, he asked me, "Why, why?" not understanding, and I told him I hoped he preserve my confidence, for I'd researched a book on it and hoped to work my way through my own priorities to that point. I take it there is nothing solid he added to the unoriginal concept. This, too, would be typical.

What you say of the reportera and the Shaw case is really an understatement. I presume Kirkwood knows the truth and doesn't say it. These reporters did act as investigators for the defense and more-intimidators. Before the trial I knew they were visiting all the prospective prosecution witnesses, the first solid confirmation of the internal leak I'd suspected for two years.

It is difficult for a man who has undertaken Kirkwood's task to bring much of real significance to light. His partisanship is not to be criticized. That is his right, if he is honest with it. More, it can be his obligation. But the question is, has he done an honest job. From the Esquire scrivening, I'd be inclined to expect little. In fairness to him, what can he say more than Shaw got a raw deal? What can he add to what the jury said?

I take it also that Garrison says nothing about his case. Considering what he had that was his, excellent judgement! The greater tragedy is that there is much there and we have learned none of what little we know through him. I'm still adding to it, little by very little.

When you comment on his book, you fail to say something I'd expect, that it is very well written. He is a fine writer, really a careful craftsman. He grings it out in great labor, on ruled, yello lawyer's pads. I've seen him sit an intolerable time over a single, inconsequential paragraph that didn't suit him. And this is a press release!

My hunch is that both books will be remaindered soon enough. Perhaps then I'll get them. My chief interest in Garrison's is the added insight it can give me into him, which at this stage is not important. In Kirkwood, it is to seex if by any remote chance (and it would have to be a very remote one), he drops anything.

For your information, as I recall the story (I'd left N.O. and have no first-hand knowledge), the Shaw press gathered nightly, presided over by Rosemary James. It grew to a considerable group, I was told by a reporterm not a Shaw partisan.

Best regards,